

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LOGANVILLE, GEORGIA, TO ESTABLISH RULES OF DECORUM FOR CITY MEETINGS; TO PROVIDE FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING RESOLUTIONS; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Loganville embraces, supports and protects open government and the public's right to be fully informed of the actions of the Mayor and City Council;

WHEREAS, meetings of the City Council constitute a government process with important government purposes;

WHEREAS, meetings of the City Council follow an agenda that must be addressed and dealt with in order to make decisions on important matters affecting the community and members of the public;

WHEREAS, conduct that disturbs, disrupts or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of meetings may prevent the Mayor and City Council from accomplishing the peoples' business in a reasonably efficient manner and may interfere with the rights of the public to observe the functioning of their government; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council believe it is important to the orderly conduct of the business and affairs of the City of Loganville that the City establish rules of decorum for citizens and other visitors to ensure order is maintained.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOGANVILLE HEREBY:

Section 1: Adopts the whereas clauses into this resolution as true findings of fact and conclusions.

Section 2: Adopts the following rules of decorum for public participation in City Council meetings to assist in the orderly deliberation of matters affecting the City of Loganville and its citizens.

A. Rules of Decorum

1. The Mayor and City Council typically provide a public comment period following each regularly scheduled Council meeting. The public comment period is limited to 30 minutes. In matters of exceptional interest, the time-period may be extended by a majority vote of the Mayor and City Council.
2. Public comments will be limited in time to a total of three (3) minutes per speaker. The time limit will be enforced by the presiding officer or his/her designee. No person may speak more than once during the public comment period.
3. The purpose of the public comment period is limited to the discussion of business on the agenda or over which the governing body has jurisdiction.

4. Each speaker shall state his or her name, address, and the agenda or business item to be addressed for the record.
5. Speakers shall not make personal, impertinent, slanderous, or profane remarks to any elected official, any member of the staff, or general public. Any person who makes such remarks, or who utters loud, threatening, personal, or abusive language or engages in any other disorderly conduct which disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any City Council meeting shall, at the discretion of the presiding officer, his/her designee, or a majority of the Council, be cautioned or ejected and barred from further audience before the Mayor and Council during that meeting.
6. Persons exiting the meeting room during the City Council meeting shall do so quietly.
7. Clapping, applauding, heckling or verbal outbursts in support or opposition to a speaker or his or her remarks is discouraged.

B. Enforcement of Rules of Decorum

The rules of decorum set forth above shall be enforced in the following manner:

1. If, in the opinion of the presiding officer, his/her designee, or a majority of Council members, comments by a member of the public during the public comment period are not related to an agenda item, or a person otherwise violates the rules of decorum, the presiding officer or his/her designee will notify the speaker to re-direct his or her comments or otherwise follow the rules of decorum.
2. If, after receiving an initial warning, a person persists in violating the rules of decorum, the speaker will be asked to return to his or her seat regardless of whether the allocated time to speak has expired.
3. If a person refuses to return to his or her seat, the presiding officer or his/her designee shall order such person to leave the meeting. If such person does not leave the meeting, the presiding officer or his/her designee may instruct any law enforcement officer on duty at the meeting to remove that person from the meeting and escort him/her from the building where the meeting is being held.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof in conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed.

SO RESOLVED this 8th day of November, 2021.

ATTEST:

City Manager Danny Roberts

CITY OF LOGANVILLE:

Mayor Rey Martinez